

Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

A New Beginning: President Obama's Speech in Cairo

Standard: I. Culture
 II. Time, Continuity, and Change
 III. People, Places, and Environments
 IV. Individual Development and Identity
 V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
 VI. Power, Authority, and Governance
 VII. Production, Distribution, and Consumption
 VIII. Science, Technology, and Society
 IX. Global Connections
 X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Grade Level: 9–12

Objectives: The student will:
 ● Analyze a speech by President Barack Obama
 ● View the speech from the perspectives of different people and groups
 ● Determine the highlights of the speech
 ● Explain the speech in the context of world events

Time: 1-2 class periods (may be done in 1 class, if homework is assigned)

Materials: Documents: **2009** *The Cycle of Suspicion Must End*

Resources: Access to You Tube clips

Exercises: *Analysis of a "New Beginning"*
 Responses to a "New Beginning" Speech (cut apart prior to class)

Procedures:

Pre-Class

1. Distribute the document, *The Cycle of Suspicion Must End*, a speech given by President Obama on June 4, 2009. Allow students 2-3 days to read the speech as homework.
2. Also distribute the exercise, *Analysis of "A New Beginning,"* to complete while reading of the speech.

Day One

1. Show all or portions of President Obama's speech.
 - Complete speech: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_889oBKkNU
 - Various You Tube clips are also available.

- 2.** Use the exercise, *Analysis of "A New Beginning,"* as the focal point for discussing the speech.
- 3.** Distribute the individual quotes from exercise, *Responses to "A New Beginning" Speech.* The teacher should allow students to draw the slips from a basket (or other container).
- 4.** Explain that the blank slips are to be completed by the students as if they were interviewed by the media immediately after the speech.
- 5.** Allow students to give their responses to the speech.
- 6.** Discuss the variety of responses, their sources, and the reasons behind each response. Were any predictable? Which of the responses were angry in tone? Conciliatory in tone? Who was most negative? Which of the responses was neither positive nor negative, but presented a non-aligned, middle-of-the-road attitude?
- 7.** Have students determine if any of the seven issues has changed since the President's speech in 2009. Has there been "a new beginning?" ■